THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The estimated quantity of high grade coking coal in the abandoned mines of Giridih coalfield is 2.33 million tonnes. In the case of Raniganj coalfield estimate with a reasonable level of confidence has not yet been made due to non-availability of data/working plans. At present there is no plan to extract these quantities of coal due to high cost of mining and technical difficulties.

Replacement of fire affected components of second unit of Raichur Thermal Power Station

*105. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka have recently urged the Central Government for replacement of the fire affected components of the second unit of Raichur Thermal Power Station by BHEL; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was taken up with BHEL who have replaced at site the equipment damaged by fire.

Slow growth of Industry in the country

*106. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial growth in the country had remained static in the first four months of the post budget period and that even now the industrial growth is not that much as was expected in spite of the fact that various concessions were given to the industrialists in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the slow growth of industry in the country and for the foreign collaborators not coming up to invest their money in India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) According to the latest available data, the overall rate of industrial growth during April-August 1985 has been 6.3 per cent over the corresponding period last year. Growth of manufacturing sector at 6.6 per cent has been higher still.

While it is too early to make a full assessment of the impact of the liberalisation measures initiated by Government to promote industrial growth, various policy intiaves and improvement in the infrastructure envisaged during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period are expected to result in an accelerated rate of industrial growth.

There has been steady improvement in the investment climate in the country this year and the number of foreign collaboration approvals issued during April-September, 1985 has been 460 as against 389 during the corresponding period in 1984.

Oil and Gas producing agencies

*107. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the agencies that produce Oil and Gas in the country what their quantity;

(b) the number of wells dug both in on-shore and off-shore areas during the last three years and the number of such wells at present producing oil and gas, separately, with the quantity of each produced at present;

(c) the consumption of both oil and gas in various fields in the country; and

(d) whether, in view of the excess availability of gas, Government propose to switch over to gas run industries and automobiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) ONGC and OIL are two agencies engaged in production of oil and gas in the country. The production during 1984-85 was as follows:—

	Oil Million Tonnes	Gas Million Cubic Metres
O.N.G.C. . .	26·26	5600
O.I.L. . . .	2·73	1641

(b) 647 wells were drilled on shore and off shore in the last three years. al together about 2400 wells are producing oil and gas at present and daily production is about 80 thousand tonnes of oil and about 20 million cubic metres of gas.

(c) The consumption of natural gas in various sectors in the country during 1984-85 was about 4200 million cubic metres and that of petroleum products about 39 million tonnes.

(d) Subject to the availability, after meeting the requirements of fertilizer plants and petro-chemical plants, gas is proposed to be supplied for power generation and for other industrial use.

Stoppage of instant counter facility in Saving Bank withdrawals in Dehradun Postal Region

*109. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had provided the instant counter facility in the various Post Offices of the country for Saving Bank withdrawals up to Rs. 300 or so a few years back;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said instant counter facility has been stopped in the Post Offices situated in the Dehradun Postal Region, by the Director of Postal Services, sometimes from 1983;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, whether any Director is empowered to withdraw the facility from the public in his region, in spite of the policy decision of Government mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) what disciplinary action Government propose to take or have already taken against the guilty official for causing hardship to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The facility is at presnt provided in all post offices up to the selection grade level for withdrawals up to Rs. 500.

(b) In view of certain frauds occurring in quick succession in some post offices with instant counter facility in Dehradun Postal Region, the Postmaster General, Uttar Pradesh Circle, approved the suspension of the facility in August, 1983.

(c) and (d) The Instant Counter is a facility analogous to the Teller system in the Banks and was intended to provide quicker service at the counters. The suspension of the facility does not affect deposits/withdrawals sought by the depositors which are allowed in the normal course. In the circumstances, the question of any disciplinary action does not arise.

Frauds in Postal Savings Banks

*110. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of frauds in the Post Office Saving Banks unearthed during the last two years;

(b) what is the number of frauds detected in connection with the distribution of money orders and insured letters during the last two years;